VII. METALLURGY AND METALWORKING

A. Aluminum

325 433 The Japanese, in the second phase of their economic development of Formosa, constructed aluminum plants at Kaohsiung and Hualien in order to take advantage of the abundant power available in the island. The Kaohsiung plant then had an annual capacity of 20,000 metric tons of aluminum ingot. (The Bayer process was utilized for ore separation.) During World War II, the plants were badly damaged. Following the war, the Kaohsiung plant was rebuilt, and what remained of the Hualien plant was sold to a fertilizer manufacturing company.

Formosa's only producer of aluminum ingot, the Taiwan Aluminum Corporation, has a productive capacity of approximately 8,000 metric tons of ingot and 4,000 tons of sheet aluminum at the Kaohsiung plant. Aluminum goods, such as home appliances, kitchen utensils, and quartermaster supplies for the military, are produced by 77 small privately owned companies and one government-owned company.

Of the raw materials needed for the production of aluminum, bauxite is imported from Bintam Island, Malaya, and petroleum coke is imported from the United States.

B. Steel and Iron

327 433 The island of Formosa produces little iron ore. Production of pig iron, derived from

327 imported iron ore, amounted to 8,6000 metric
433 tons in 1954; reclaimed pig iron, derived from scrap iron, amounted to 8,672 metric tons in the same year. The island has the facilities to produce 13,000 metric tons of pig iron and 15,290 metric tons of reclaimed pig iron annually. Small iron and steel plants (foundries, blast furnaces, rolling mills, electric furnaces) are located in Kaohsiung, Taipei, Patu, Tainan, Kangshan, Sungshan, Hualien, and Keelung.

325 327 433 Production of basic metals is given below:

PRODUCTION OF BASIC METALS */

(in metric tons)

	Aluminum ingot	Pig iron	Reclaimed pig iron
1948	2,509	9,221	3,284
1949	1,317	1,559	4,275
1950	1,764	78	5,600
1951	2,984	733	5,385
1952	3,856	620	6,415
1953	4,915	3,927	6,929
1954	7,131	8,591	8,772

*/ Taiwan Economic Data Book, Part II, Vol. 3, 1955.